



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
BUCHAREST • ROMANIA

June 2011



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American Citizen Services eNewsletter

CBP'S TIPS FOR TRAVELERS

As the summer travel season approaches, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is providing summer travelers with [travel tips](#) when traveling into the U.S.

Tip #1 To avoid fines and penalties associated with importing prohibited items, travelers should familiarize themselves with the "Know Before You Go" section of the [CBP website](#)

Tip #2 Be prepared to *declare all items* acquired abroad. Travelers should prepare for the inspection process before arriving at the inspection booth and have their approved travel documents ready.

Tip #3 Monitor border wait times for various ports of entry. Travelers can find wait time information at the CBP website (<http://apps.cbp.gov/bwt/>). To experience shorter wait times, travelers can use larger ports of entry during periods of lighter traffic or less heavily traveled ports of entry during periods of heavy travel.

Tip #4 Build extra time into the trip in the event of crossing during periods of exceptionally heavy traffic.

Tip #5 Know the difference between goods for personal use versus commercial use. For more details, visit www.cbp.gov/travel.

Tip #6 Do not attempt to bring fruits, meats, dairy/poultry products and/or firewood into the U.S. without first checking whether they are permitted.

Tip #7 International border crossers should expect a thorough inspection process, even during busy holiday periods, when entering the U.S. CBP officers are authorized to conduct enforcement examinations, ranging from checking luggage to a personal search, without a warrant.

All **non-emergency** ACS services (renewal of U.S. passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, notarial, etc.) are provided by appointment **ONLY**.

Please follow [this link](#) to make an appointment with the consular section staff.

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

Address: St. Filipescu 26, Bucharest

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Fax: +40- 21- 200 3578

In the event of an emergency involving an American citizen, please, call +40-21-200-3433

For information about public hours, please visit <http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/index.html>.

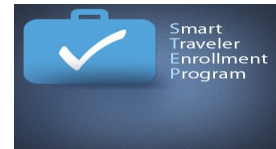




*Traveling to the United States this summer?
Look up estimated wait times for your upcoming trip at major U.S. airports!*

CBP closely monitors the flight processing times, commonly referred to as **wait times**, for arriving flights at 23 of the busiest international airports. The flight processing time is the length of time from flight arrival to the time the last passenger on the flight is screened by CBP officers in the primary processing area. More information on estimated wait and flight processing times may be found at <http://apps.cbp.gov/awt/>

We continue to encourage all U.S. citizens to *register their trips and residence abroad* to facilitate our communications with them in the event of an emergency. If you have any questions about the *Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)*, please, email us at ACSBcharest@state.gov.



From the Embassy Information Management Officer



Planning to go to the Olympics?

Scammers Take Advantage Of Ticket Allocation To Craft Olympics Scams

Fraudsters have begun ramping up the production of scams ahead of the 2012 Olympic Games in London next July. The ticket allocation lottery process has been accompanied by two email-borne scams. The first of the scam messages comes with a .DOC attachment that asks for *personal information such as mobile number, PIN number, and security codes among others*. Read this article at http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/05/12/olympics_scams/



Voting Slogan and Poster Contest Winners!

The Federal Voting Assistance Program is pleased to announce the winners of its biennial Voting Slogan and Poster Contests. The winning slogans and poster will be part of the FVAP's 2012-2013 outreach campaign, which focuses on increasing voter awareness among citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act – members of the Uniformed Services and all U.S. citizens residing outside the United States.

This year, the Department received more than 1,400 slogans and 150 posters from all branches of the Uniformed Services, the State Department, local election officials and citizens living around the world via the Challenge.gov website. A panel of judges, including Members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, has selected their favorite posters and slogans based on originality and motivational value. These results were combined with a public vote held on Challenge.gov. The winners will be featured in the 2012-2013 *Voting Assistance Guide*, on motivational posters, and other FVAP publications.

The winning entries in the Slogan Contest were:

“Over here, over there, don’t despair. Vote!”- Ms. Dora Rodriguez, U.S. Marine Corps.

“It’s a freedom that you defend-Vote!”- SGM Bob Pitman, U.S. Army (Retired).

Receiving Honorable Mention were:

“Be an Absentee Voter, Not an Absentee Citizen, VOTE” – Ms. Cathy Neri, U.S. Navy.

“Absentee Vote, Made in America”- SGT Andrew Saife, U.S. Army.

“You’re away from home, your voice shouldn’t be. Vote.” – LTJG Katy Bock, U.S. Navy.

The winning poster, entitled “Baggage Claim”, was created by Stephen Gentry of the Larimer County, Colorado Elections Department. The poster can be seen at: [Challenge.gov winner](#).

2d Lt Matt Jurcak, U.S. Air Force, won an honorable mention for his poster, which can be seen at: Challenge.gov.

The winners have won a trip to Washington, DC. Honorable mentions will receive a certificate of congratulations from the Department.

Bob Carey, Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, congratulates the winners and all those who submitted slogans and posters to help spread the message to VOTE!

FVAP can be contacted via 1-800-438-8683. Citizens may reach FVAP toll-free from 67 countries by using the toll-free numbers listed on the FVAP website, www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreephone.html. Questions regarding the above may also be referred to the Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20301-1155, vote@fvap.gov, and on the World Wide Web at www.fvap.gov



TRAVEL.STATE.GOV

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U.S. Department of State

WE REMIND YOU...

... *that* applying for a U.S. passport while outside the United States is a different process from applying for a U.S. passport while *inside* the United States. Although the application forms, supporting documentation, fees and finished products are the same everywhere, each **U.S. Embassy and Consulate has different procedures for submitting and processing your final documents.** Please visit [Embassy website](#) to find out detailed instructions regarding passport application process at the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest. Let us know if you have any questions (ACSBucharest@state.gov).



... *that* if you ever receive an e-mail or fax from someone you do not know requesting your assistance in a financial transaction, such as the transfer of a large sum of money into an account, or claiming you are the next of kin to a wealthy person who has died, or the winner of some obscure lottery, **DO NOT** respond. These requests are typically sent through public servers via a generic "spammed" e-mail message. Usually, the sender does not yet know your personal e-mail address and is depending on you to respond. Once you reply, whether you intend to string them along or tell them you are not interested, they will often continue to e-mail you in an attempt to harass or intimidate you. If you receive an unsolicited e-mail of this nature, the best course is to simply delete the message. *If you are interested to find out more on how to protect yourself against the perpetrators of advance fee fraud, please, visit <http://www.secretservice.gov/faq.shtml>*

ADVICE TO U.S. TRAVELERS FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION



CDC's *Travelers' Health* presents [Travel Safe](#), a podcast series sharing tips to help keep you and your family safe and healthy when traveling internationally. There are a lot of things to remember when preparing for a trip, but it is important not to forget **your health!** With each podcast, CDC gives listeners another key to opening the Travel Safe.

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Important

The Embassy will be closed on May 30, June 13, **July 8**, August 15, September 5, October 10, November 11, November 24 and December 1 in observance of U.S. and Romanian official holidays.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: *What is an Apostille?*

You may know that a document is generally recognized only in the country in which it was issued. In order to facilitate recognition of a document abroad, an international treaty regarding mutual recognition of documents was signed by many countries, including the U.S. and Romania.

This treaty is called the "*Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirements of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents (hereinafter "Convention")*". According to that treaty, a document originating in one Convention country is recognized in all other Convention countries **IF** it bears the, so-called, "APOSTILLE" stamp, i.e. *a validation performed by the superior office in the country and state (province) where it was issued*.

Therefore, in order for your American document to be accepted by the Romanian authorities, you will also need to provide an *Apostille*.

In the United States, Apostilles are provided by the [Department of State Authentications Office](#) for federal documents while the Secretary of State or Deputy Secretary of State of [the individual U.S. States](#) for state documents. Thus, if you need an Apostille for a state document, please contact [the State where the document was originally issued](#). You will need to submit the original document with a request to have the Apostille attached. The easiest way to obtain up to date information is to go on the website of the secretary of state where the document was issued and to **contact them directly** if you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Please, let us know if you have any questions (ACSBucharest@state.gov)